Mr. Shabdai S. Koder.—I second it.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Sir, I for one am always willing to work in co-operation with a Board for considering matters of great importance. In the case of the Road Board it was I who first suggested that a Board should be constituted to advise the department after thorough investigation into the needs of the people. But in the case of canals the matter is different. We have not at present large number of proposals for the construction of canals in the State. To what few proposals we have, we have been devoting our earnest attention. I may bring before this House the prejects now before us. They are, for constructing a canal in Kunnamkulam to connect Kunnamkulam with the Connoly Canal and also the canal connecting Karingachira of the Cochin Kanayannur Taluk with the backwaters. Then we have at present another big project for connecting Irinjalakuda again with the Connolly Canal. Then again the most important canal for connecting Trichur with Karanchira. In all these matters Government are taking very vigorous steps to see that those projects materialise. Apart from these, I do not think the Member himself can say instances of any more canals which can be dug with great benefit to the people. Canals unlike roads cannot be constructed anywhere because the law of water levels acts so that the question of constructing more canals is more complicated than is the case with roads. I therefore think that at present there is no real necessity for constituting a Canal Board on the lines suggested by the Mover of the resolution.

Mr. George Parakkal.—Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the resolution.

Resolution was, by leave withdrawn.

27. Prevention of sea-erosions in the State.

Mr. A. Narayana Menon.—"*This Council recommends to the Government of Cochin to institute a survey of the coastal regions in the State with a view to (a) ascertain the magnitude of the loss caused by erosions and (b) to take preventive steps on a comprehensive basis*".

Sir, I consider this to be one of the most important resolutions that has to be discussed by this House during this session of the Council, because the problems that are to be covered by this resolution are so vital to the interests of Cochin that I hope the Treasury Bench will sympathetically receive the recommendations contained in the resolution. For one thing the coastal

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regions are really the backbone of the whole State. I have personal knowledge of the fact that on account of erosions very serious damage is done to the coastal regions and in some places we even find that not even half a furlong of land lies between the sea and the low lying paddy fields that about the land. Supposing the erosions in a year are very successful the usefulness of the Harbour itself will be affected. It is a very serious thing that requires the consideration of the House. The theory that the law governing erosions and accretions is not certain, is all exploded now. Where there is accretion at one time, there will be erosion at another time was the old theory. I am told that now Engineers are able to find out ways and means of protecting successfully lands which are subject to erosion. In this cennection I have to express with thanks the high solicitude shown by the Member for Engineering and the promptness with which he went to Chellanam during the last monsoon when the report of serious erosions was made known to him. I know that he is in complete sympathy with the demands of the people. No serious question of funds will arise here. Let us first of all collect data for solving the problem. Now that we have got the Harbour Engineer and his staff here, no serious extra expenses will have to be incurred for expert advice in the matter. Let us solve the problem one way or the other, and see whether we cannot successfully protect the Cochin coastal regions, so that the dangers that are taking place every day, dangers to person and property, may be made a thing of the past. The danger that we apprehend almost every day to our beautiful Harbour may also be averted by the acceptance of the resolution. I commend this resolution for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. P. J. Alexander.—Sir, I beg to second the resolution and in so doing I venture a few remarks which I believe will go home direct to the Government in acting up to the principle of the resolution and doing the needful as speedily as possible. The question of sea erosion is not one of mere local importance to the coastal regions. Apart from the fact that every year a good portion of the valuable estates are washed away and several people rendered homeless, and kindred sufferings of various descriptions are set on foot, there is the fact that in some of the regions, especially near Puthenthode, the sea may break into the backwater. If such a thing were to happen, I have the testimony of expert engineers and that is a point which I am happy to note our Chief Engineer himself will agree to, the security of our big investments in the Harbour

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will be very rudely shaken. It is a matter of history that when the famous Cranganur Harbour was functioning, our Cochin Harbour did not exist. Sea erosions coupled with earthquakes were prevalent even then. Successive erosions made a breach at Cochin and gradually as it happened to be forged into a natural harbour, the importance of the Cranganur Harbour faded in proportion and finally disappeared. Similarly there is a chance perhaps that while we are going ahead with the 4th stage of the Harbour, another harbour may be opened up somewhere to the south and the whole thing will be an awkward and colossal loss. Therefore the Government would do well not to take the question as purely a parochial one but as one of an all-State importance. In this connection I am happy to note that the Government have taken one step in the preventive line, namely, the sanction of a groyne which is just to be constructed at the southern side of the Harbour and for this, the people of my constituency, in particular, will be constantly thankful to the Government. But they say that wherever a lonely groyne is put up, on one of the two sides of it the erosions will be going on more intensely than before so that one groyne put up must be continued as speedily as possible. For this also a survey of the coastal regions with a view to understand the amount of loss that is annually wrought is necessary as it will enable the Government to realise the emergency of the situation so that the most effective steps in the preventive line may be devised. Such steps must be undertaken as speedily as possible. I have every confidence that the Government will not oppose this resolution on the question of funds.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Sir, the question of coast erosions has been engaging the attention of the Government for many years. I remember at one time when Sir Vijayaraghava Achari was the Diwan, the Harbour Engineer was asked to prepare a note on the question of erosion. It was at a time when he was himself experimenting on such subjects in connection with the Harbour works. He forwarded a note saying how difficult it is to devise means by which you can prevent such erosions. The main difficulty which lay in his way was the total absence of any kind of recorded statistics as regards the velocity and direction of wind, littoral currents and other allied subjects. In fact we have not been maintaining sustained statistics of any of the coastal lines excepting very near the Harbour mouth and so it has become very difficult to devise any method by which we can effectively stop these erosions. While at the same it must be admitted that the complete

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stoppage of erosion in one place will result in the seaeroding in another place so that what may be a temporary relief may eventually work against us in the matter of further erosions in different localities. Mr. Bristow was again asked after a period of about 10 years what he considered about the situation then. Even then he had to send a report almost on the same lines as before on the difficulty of devising any kind of protective works which could be really recommended and which will not lead the Government to unbounded expenditure. Even as the Member for Palluruthi said, the construction of one groyne would make it necessary to construct more and more groynes one after another resulting in very great expenditure. So what the Government did under these circumstances was to protect the most vulnerable points on the coast. One of those points was the foreshore at Ochanthuruthu. There they have constructed more than 6 groynes and the results have been very satisfactory. Erosion has completely stopped there and accretion has started in that area. Now we have taken up the construction of a groyne at Andikkadavu and I hope that it will also lead to the same result. We have during the past few years been taking data regarding the amount of accretion and erosion in the State and I have collected some figures on the subject. Coming from the north in the Edavilanga Village there were about 12 acres of accretion and 80 acres of erosion. In Eriyad and Azhikode Villages there were about 15 acres of accretion and 152 acres of erosion. In fact in the whole of Cranganur Taluk the erosions were more than the accretions, while in the villages of Kuzhuppilly, Edavilangu, Nayarambalam and Narakkal there have been greater accretions than erosions, while further south of the Cochin Harbour erosions are in excess. As a result the total acreage which have been eroded during the last 30 years have been about 1000 acres against an accretion of 2064 acres, so that we have not really lost in the matter of foreshore. Certain points in the foreshore that is, Chellanam and Andikkadavu have been very badly faced with the situation of very bad erosions and so we are going to protect this area as funds permit.

(At this stage the Hon'ble the President took the Chair.)

Mr. A. Narayana Menon.—I do not propose to press this resolution to a division, but before I beg leave of the House to withdraw the resolution I want to press before the House the importance of the coastal regions especially the region to the south of Mattancherri proper. The danger that was point-

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ed out by the Hon'ble Member for Palluruthi, viz., that any day the sea may cut across the narrow strip of land there and the consequent danger that we expect to the Cochin Harbour is a very serious subject for the consideration of the Government. That there is absence of statistics is no argument at all. We have one day or other to collect the statistics, the sooner the better. Let Cochin make a beginning so that here also Cochin may lead so that the rest of India may follow. I request the Government to give this subject their very sympathetic and serious attention. With these few words I beg leave of the House to withdraw the Resolution.

Resolution by leave withdrawn.

28. Cochin for Cochinites First.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—"*This Council recommends to the Government that they may be pleased to strictly adhere to the policy of 'Cochin for Cochinites First'*".

സർ, ഈ പ്രമേയം വായിച്ചുനോക്കിയാൽതന്നെ ഉദ്ദേശം മനസ്സിലാകുന്നതാണ്. നമ്മുടെ കൊച്ചീരാജ്യം കൊച്ചിക്കാരുടേതുതന്നെ ആയിരിക്കണമെന്നും കൊച്ചീരാജ്യത്തിലുള്ള പ്രജകൾക്കു ഉദ്യോഗവും മറ്റു തരത്തിലുള്ള സൗകര്യങ്ങളും ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കണമെന്നും ആണ് ഇതിന്റെ സാരം. നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തു ഇപ്പോൾ പ്രധാനമായിട്ടുള്ള തുറമുഖത്തിനും റയിൽവേക്കും അനവധി പണം ചിലവുചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ തുറമുഖവും റയിൽവേയും കൊണ്ടു നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ പലതരത്തിലുള്ള പ്രയാസമുണ്ടാകുമെന്നുള്ളതു നമുക്കറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിലും മറ്റുള്ള പല ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിലും കൊച്ചീക്കാർക്ക് വേണ്ട പ്രവേശനങ്ങൾ അനുവദിച്ചു സഹായിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഇപ്പോൾ കാളേജിൽനിന്നും ഹൈസ്കൂളുകളിൽനിന്നും പല ബിരുദകളും സമ്പാദിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു പുറത്തുവന്നു യാതൊരു തൊഴിലുമില്ലാതെ അലഞ്ഞു നടക്കുന്നവർ അനവധിയുണ്ട്. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള കൊച്ചീക്കാർക്കു ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിൽ പ്രത്യേകമായി പ്രവേശനം അനുവദിച്ചുകൊടുക്കേണ്ട ചുമതലയുണ്ടെന്നു പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളുന്നു. നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തു ഉദ്യോഗത്തിനായി പുറത്തുനിന്നു ആളുകളെ വരുത്തുന്നതിനു പകരം ഇവിടത്തെ ആളുകളെത്തന്നെ നിയമിക്കേണ്ടതു് ഗവൺമെൻറിന്റെ ചുമതലയാണ്. കൊച്ചിയിലെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിൽനിന്നു വേണ്ടതായ ആനുകൂല്യങ്ങൾ ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയംകൊണ്ടു ഗവൺമെൻറിനോടപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. P. J. Alexander.—I beg to second it.

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